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EDITORIAL NOTES**WHAT IS THE VALUE OF ANYTHING?**

A very great objection to the schedule of fees offered by the associated insurance companies for the services of physicians under the new insurance and compensation act, is the fixing of a flat fee. Fees for professional work cannot be absolutely fixed; as a matter of fact, the value of everything is relative and the old saying of "charging what the traffic will bear" is fundamentally true and right. The freight rate on silk is more per ton than that on pig iron; a lawyer gets a bigger fee for incorporating a fifty million dollar concern than for a thousand dollar company; a surgeon is entitled to a larger fee for removing the appendix of a millionaire than for taking out that of a car conductor. Some of our best surgeons have a system of charging that is based upon the income of the individual and represents one or more month's income for the work to be done, and this seems to be a reasonable and equitable way of fixing the fee. It is foolish for any one to say that it is as much work and strain and responsibility in the case of the poor man as in that of the rich man. Just as much coal is burned in hauling a ton of silk as in pulling a ton of pig iron over a certain distance. Therefore, the contracting to do certain professional work for certain fixed fees, irrespective of the income of the patient, is fundamentally wrong and vicious.

SQUEEZING THE COMPANIES.

Dr. French read a paper on the subject of industrial compensation, insurance, etc., before the Los Angeles County Medical Association and, in the main, took the attitude voiced in your JOURNAL in connection therewith. One point he brought up, however, is new in so far as it has not been mentioned in these pages; that is, the fact that some physicians will try to make the bill unduly large if they know that an insurance company of large capital is going to pay out the money. Probably that is, in a few cases, true. Physicians are average men and probably have but a little more than the average rate of honesty; in every walk of life and in every calling we shall find rascals and dishonest men; occasionally one reads of some clergyman who has been detected leading an immoral or a dissolute life, but because of that we do not condemn all clergy nor do we think of them as all being dissolute. Every practicing physician does a great deal of work for nothing, and the very nature of his calling leads him to try to think more honestly than does the daily occupation of the average man in any other calling; therefore we truly believe that physicians are to some extent more honest in the average than those in other walks of life. But even at that there will be some cases of attempted grafting, no matter what is done. The plan presented in this issue and strongly recommended to county medical societies for their consideration, will, we think, do away with the charge of possible graft. Still, it seems to be a peculiar phase of human nature that every one must try to get "something for nothing," particularly when it is a corporation that is to be depleted. People who would never put a hand in an individual pocket, will avoid paying car-fare if they can, and we all know the predatory instinct that removes things from hotels! Doubtless many physicians who would be perfectly honest with an individual patient would not think it wrong to try to "stick" a corporation. It is a queer people!

A SUGGESTION ABOUT FEES.

Why not carefully consider and present to the various insurance companies a proposition something like the following; it will not only do away with the wrong idea of fixed, flat fees, but it will also do away with the serious harm to a number of physicians which is a result of forcing a certain company physician upon all patients covered by that company. Let the injured person have the attention of any member of the county medical society who will agree to make his charges commensurate with the income of the patient and not try to fix them according to the capital stock of the insurance company. In the event of a dispute